



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 02/12/2014 and available online at <http://federalregister.gov/a/2014-03036>, and on FDsys.gov

(Billing Code 5001-06)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

Docket No. DARS-2014-0014

Negotiation of a Reciprocal Defense Procurement Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Slovenia

AGENCY: Department of Defense

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: On behalf of the U.S. Government, DoD is contemplating negotiating and concluding a Reciprocal Defense Procurement (RDP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic of Slovenia (hereafter "Slovenia"). DoD is requesting industry feedback regarding its experience in public defense procurements conducted by or on behalf of the Slovenian Ministry of Defense or Armed Forces.

DATES: Submit written comments to the address shown below on or before **[Insert date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register]**.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Attn: Mr. Victor Deal, 3060 Defense Pentagon, Room 5E621, Washington, DC 20301-3060; or by e-mail to Victor.T.Deal3.civ@mail.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Victor Deal, Senior

Analyst, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (OUSD(AT&L)), Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Contract Policy and International Contracting; Room 5E621, 3060 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3060; telephone (703) 697-9351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RDP MOUs that DoD has with 23 "qualifying" countries are concluded at the level of the Secretary of Defense and his counterpart. The purpose of RDP MOUs is to promote rationalization, standardization, and interoperability of conventional defense equipment with allies and other friendly governments. These MOUs provide a framework for ongoing communication regarding market access and procurement matters that enhance effective defense cooperation.

RDP MOUs generally include language by which the Parties agree that their defense procurements will be conducted in accordance with certain implementing procedures. These procedures relate to—

- Publication of notices of proposed purchases;
- The content and availability of solicitations for proposed purchases;
- Notification to each unsuccessful offeror;
- Feedback, upon request, to unsuccessful offerors concerning the reasons they were not allowed to participate in a procurement or were not awarded a contract; and

- Providing for the hearing and review of complaints arising in connection with any phase of the procurement process to ensure that, to the extent possible, complaints are equitably and expeditiously resolved.

Based on the MOU, each country affords the other country certain benefits on a reciprocal basis consistent with national laws and regulations. The benefits that the United States accords to the products of qualifying countries include—

- Offers of qualifying country end products are evaluated without applying the price differentials otherwise required by the Buy American statute and the Balance of Payments Program;
- The chemical warfare protection clothing restrictions in 10 U.S.C. 2533a and the specialty metals restriction in 10 U.S.C. 2533b(a)(1) do not apply to products manufactured in a qualifying country; and
- Customs, taxes, and duties are waived for qualifying country end products and components.

If DoD (for the U.S. Government) concludes an RDP MOU with the Republic of Slovenia, then Slovenia would be listed as one of the "qualifying countries" in the definition of "qualifying country" at DFARS 225.003, and offers of products of Slovenia or that contain components from Slovenia would be afforded the benefits available to all qualifying countries. This also means that U.S. products would be exempt from any analogous "Buy Slovenia" and

"Buy European Union" laws or policies applicable to procurements by the Slovenian Ministry of Defense or Armed Forces.

While DoD is evaluating Slovenia's laws and regulations in this area, DoD would benefit from U.S. industry's experience in participating in Slovenia's public defense procurements. DoD is, therefore, asking U.S. firms that have participated or attempted to participate in procurements by or on behalf of Slovenia's Ministry of Defense or Armed Forces to let us know if the procurements were conducted with transparency, integrity, fairness, and due process in accordance with published procedures, and if not, the nature of the problems encountered.

DoD is also interested in comments relating to the degree of reciprocity that exists between the United States and Slovenia when it comes to the openness of defense procurements to offers of products from the other country.

Manuel Quinones,

Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

[FR Doc. 2014-03036 Filed 02/11/2014 at 8:45 am; Publication

Date: 02/12/2014]